Purchase of Boeing 737 P8A multi-mission maritime aircraft

1668. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the PC-3 Orion maritime surveillance aircraft is hanging fire, the Indian Navy has expressed its interest to buy Boeing-737 P8A multi-mission maritime aircraft to replace the ageing PC-3 orion platform; and

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping P8A multi-mission maritime aircraft and the reasons for delay in getting PC-3 orion from USA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A Request for Proposal (RFP) on global basis for procurement of Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft has been issued to vendors world wide including the manufacturers of P3C Orion aircraft and Navy International Program Office, USA. Boeing P8A is a futuristic platform, which is under development and at conceptual stage.

Establishment of ski village in H.P.

†1669. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been entered into with any foreign company to establish a ski village in around 100 acres of land of Manali and adjacent area in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether this ski village will be constructed in border area, where at present logistics and arms through Leh-Laddakh, Lahol Spiti etc. are supplied to the soldiers guarding the borders of our country;

(c) if so, whether it has been ensured that it will not cause any security threat to the country; and

(d) whether no objection certificate has been obtained from the Ministry of Defence?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.